

## CHICAGO STREET CARS AND FREEZING WEATHER

A refrigerator on wheels of the type usually masquerading under the title of Chicago street car was slowly moving by fits and jerks down Halsted street.

On the corner where the crowd stood awaiting its coming, the mercury of the thermometer as if in despair or disgust had crept out of sight.

Blue lipped and red nosed, the bunch climbed on board the nickel-chariot, hunting for a little warmth.

The sides, ends and roof of the car, serving as a wind break, protected the passengers from the raw and cutting Chicago breeze, but that was all.

"A little of this will go a long way," was the first remark that suggested that every body wasn't satisfied with the traction company's method of meeting cold weather conditions in Chicago.

Like a seed dropped on fertile ground, the remark quoted, grew into a general discussion and final selection of a committee of three to see the conductor and demand heat.

The conductor unlike his bosses, was courteous and after safe guarding himself by demanding the names and addresses of the men who made the request agreed to do what he could to satisfy the passengers.

As a result of the conductor's efforts a slight difference in the car temperature gradually became noticeable, but never did it get within hailing distance of the figure set by law.

Five lengthy stoppages due to accidents made the journey from Lincoln ave. to Madison seem like an uncomfortable trip to the Pacific coast.

According to press accounts this was not an isolated instance for most of the newspapers gave accountssimilar to the following:

'When thousands hurried yesterday afternoon from store or office to the cars on their homeward way, they found that in very many instances there was but little relief from the cold.

Both surface and elevated cars offered poor protection from the icy blasts. Nearly every car was packed to its doors with shivering humanity, and little or no attempt was made to warm the cars.

"Determined to compel the transportation companies to obey the city ordinances, Health Commissioner George B. Young sent Corporation Counsel William H. Sexton a list of 125 violations of the ordinance requiring that street cars shall be heated to a temperature of 50 degrees.

"Three weeks ago Dr. Young sent a list of nearly 100 violations which were promptly forwarded to the office of the Prosecuting Attorney with instructions to bring suits at once.

This is the transportation service Chicago has been getting for years, years rich in traction promises but mighty poor in fulfillment.

The street car companies will keep it up just as long as the